dated the 17th November, 1996; if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(b) what immediate steps Government have taken or proposed to take to book the culprits and correct the picture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

The news item broadly makes allegations about irregularities in the purchase of Emergency Restoration System (ERS) by POWERGRID and the utility of the equipment in Indian conditions. ERS was recently used on two occasions - once in the 220 kv Bairasiul-Pong Line where a tower had been endangered by land slide and for the second time in Tanakpur-Bareilly Line where an existing tower was likely to be damaged due to change in the river course. Preliminary enquiries into the matter reveal that the procurement of the various packages was done in accordance with well established procedures laid gown by the World bank for bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contracts.

Expenditure under Million Wells Scheme

1426. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount incurred so far on construction of wells under Million Wells Scheme, State-wise and year-wise since inception of the scheme, particularly in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have modified the scheme since October this year, to include tube-wells and borewells also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details are given in the annexure.

[*See* Appendix 179 annexure no 32]

(b) and (c) A proposal to include borewells/tubewells under the scheme has been under consideration in the Ministry for some time and preliminary instructions in this regard were issued to include borewells and tubewells w.e.f. 1.10.1996. The above instructions however are under review in the light of a proposal to have a comprehensive scheme involving formation of user groups and beneficiary participation for installing tubewells/borewells for small and marginal farmers below poverty line in pursuance of the PM's Independence Day address to the nation.

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in North-East

1427. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has conducted any study regarding effective implementation of various Centrally sponsored Schemes in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to make these schemes more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission reviewed selected Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland during 1995-96. The list of Centrally Sponsored Schemes reviewed by Planning Commission is at statement I *(see below)*.

In addition, the Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission has also been conducting